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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of virus-inactivated thrombin comprising the steps of:
 - (a) subjecting a solution comprising prothrombin and factor X to a virus inactivation procedure, by adding solvent and detergent to said solution, wherein the solvent is tri-n-butyl phosphate;
 - (b) loading the product of step (a) onto an anion exchange medium;
 - (c) washing the anion exchange medium to remove reagents used for the virus inactivation procedure in step (a); and
 - (d) activating the prothrombin on the anion exchange medium to form thrombin by addition of metal ions, wherein a fraction of the thrombin has a specific activity of at least 2000 International Units per mg of protein.
- (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution comprising prothrombin and factor X is a prothrombin complex.
- (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of virus-inactivated thrombin comprising the steps of:
 - (a) subjecting a solution comprising factor X to a virus inactivation procedure, by adding solvent and detergent to said solution, wherein the solvent is tri-n butyl phosphate;
 - (b) loading the product of step (a) onto an anion exchange medium;
 - (c) washing the anion exchange medium to remove reagents used for the virus inactivation procedure in step (a);
 - (d) activating the factor X on the anion exchange medium to form factor Xa by addition of metal ions; and
 - (e) loading virus-inactivated prothrombin onto the anion exchange medium such that thrombin is generated, wherein a fraction of the thrombin has a specific activity of at least 2000 International Units per mg of protein.
- (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 or 3 wherein the metal ions are divalent metal ions.
- (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein the divalent metal ions are magnesium and/or calcium ions.

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 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of

- (e) selectively eluting the thrombin from the anion exchange medium.
- (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of
 - (f) passing the product of step (e) through a filter which retains pathogens;
 - (g) adding a divalent metal ion and a carbohydrate to the product of step (f), and
 - (h) freeze-drying and heat-treating the product of step (g) to inactivate viruses.
 - 8-13. (Canceled)
- 14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of
 - (f) selectively eluting the thrombin from the anion exchange medium.
- 15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of
 - (g) passing the product of step (f) through a filter which retains pathogens;
 - (h) adding a divalent metal ion and a carbohydrate to the product of step (g), and
 - (i) freeze-drying and heat-treating the product of step (h) to inactivate viruses.
- 16. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of virus-inactivated thrombin comprising the steps of:
 - (a) loading a solution comprising prothrombin and factor X onto an anion exchange medium; and
 - (b) subjecting the prothrombin and factor X to a virus inactivation procedure by adding solvent and detergent to said prothrombin and factor X on the anion exchange medium, wherein the solvent is tri-n-butyl phosphate;
 - (c) washing the anion exchange medium to remove reagents used for the virus inactivation procedure in step (b); and
 - (d) activating the prothrombin on the anion exchange medium to form thrombin by addition of metal ions, wherein a fraction of the thrombin has a specific activity of at least 2000 International Units per mg of protein.

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17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein the metal ions are divalent metal ions.

- 18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein the divalent metal ions are magnesium and/or calcium ions.
- 19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of
 - (e) selectively eluting the thrombin from the anion exchange medium.
- 20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of
 - (f) passing the product of step (e) through a filter which retains pathogens;
 - (g) adding a divalent metal ion and a carbohydrate to the product of step (f), and
 - (h) freeze-drying and heat-treating the product of step (g) to inactivate viruses.
- 21. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of virus-inactivated thrombin comprising the steps of:
 - (a) loading a solution comprising prothrombin and factor X onto an anion exchange medium; and
 - (b) subjecting the prothrombin and factor X to a virus inactivation procedure by adding solvent and detergent to said prothrombin and factor X on the anion exchange medium, wherein the solvent is tri-n-butyl phosphate;
 - (c) washing the anion exchange medium to remove reagents used for the virus inactivation procedure in step (b);
 - (d) activating the factor X on the anion exchange medium to form factor Xa by addition of metal ions; and
 - (e) loading virus-inactivated prothrombin onto the anion exchange medium such that thrombin is generated, wherein a fraction of the thrombin has a specific activity of at least 2000 International Units per mg of protein.
- 22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein the metal ions are divalent metal ions.
- 23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22 wherein the divalent metal ions are magnesium and/or calcium ions.

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24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of

- (e) selectively eluting the thrombin from the anion exchange medium.
- (Previously presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising the steps of
 - (f) passing the product of step (e) through a filter which retains pathogens;
 - (g) adding a divalent metal ion and a carbohydrate to the product of step (f), and
 - (h) freeze-drying and heat-treating the product of step (g) to inactivate viruses.
- 26. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein step (d) is performed without addition of phospholipids.
- 27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein step (d) is performed without addition of phospholipids.
- 28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein step (d) is performed without addition of phospholipids.
- 29. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein step (d) is performed without addition of phospholipids.